

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 3589-01
Bill No.: HB-1461
Subject: Elections: Political Parties
Type: Original
Date: January 18, 2002

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
General Revenue	\$0 or (\$52,965 to \$5,152,965)	\$0 or (\$56,168 to \$5,081,168 to Unknown)	\$0 or (\$57,562 to \$5,157,562)
Highway	(\$7,650)	(\$9,181)	(\$9,181)
Special Elections	\$205,000	\$0	\$205,000
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> State Funds	\$144,385 to (\$4,955,615)	(\$65,349 to \$5,090,349 to Unknown)	\$138,257 to (\$4,961,743)

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.
This fiscal note contains 8 pages.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials of the **Office of Attorney General (AGO)** stated this proposal would have no fiscal impact to their office.

Officials of the **Office of Secretary of State (SOS)** stated they would need 1 FTE (Grant Officer) to administer the grants program contained in this proposal. Officials estimate costs for 1 Grant Officer with Fringe Benefits and Equipment at \$52,965 for 10 months of FY 2003 at \$52,965; \$56,168 in FY 2004; and \$57,562 in FY 2005. Expenses includes the grant programs which are the following: 1) Updating voting processes and equipment, cost not to exceed \$5,000,000 and is **subject to appropriation**; 2) increasing pay for election Judges, cost on even numbered years, \$0 to \$25,000, and on odd numbered years \$50,000 to \$100,000 and is **subject to appropriation**; and 3) funding requests for advanced voting programs during presidential elections which would be submitted by local election authorities to the Secretary of State, who would then submit them to the Governor. The amount of cost is Unknown due to the variances in the requests to implement advanced voting in each county.

Oversight would point out that Section 115.126.3 states that “No advance voting or other absentee voting program authorized pursuant to this section shall occur when the state has failed to appropriate funds to pay its obligations.” Therefore, Oversight will show fiscal impact on advanced voting, and other programs that are “Subject to Appropriation”, as \$0 or (a certain amount).

Officials of the **Office of Administration (OA)** assume this proposal would have no increase in responsibilities. Officials stated that payments to counties where no filing fee is required for Committeewoman/man races, where there is only one candidate, would be eliminated. For OA, this proposal would affect budgeting for uncontested Committeewoman/man where there is no filing fee. The estimated costs of \$205,000 in even numbered calendar years would be eliminated. Officials assume costs for Judges at special elections would not increase.

Oversight will show a savings to the State’s Special Elections Fund of \$205,000 in FY’s 2003 and 2005.

Officials of the **Department of Revenue (DOR)** stated that their Customer Assistance Bureau manages operations in the driver license and motor vehicle registration field office. Officials assume the Bureau would require additional funding for postage associated with more frequent mailing of voter registration applications to local election officials, (Section 115.131.3).

ASSUMPTION (continued)

DOR officials assume that in order to comply with this legislation and to take into consideration the wide array of office business hours of all the field offices, the Customer Assistance Bureau would require each license office to mail the applications twice per week. Currently, offices mail the applications once per week. Officials estimate the additional cost of postage and supplies for 10 months of FY 2003 at (\$7,650); (\$9181) in FY 2004; and (\$9181) in FY 2005. Officials stated that cost would be to the State's Highway Fund.

Officials of the **Kansas City Board of Election Commission** stated that this proposal contains numerous procedural additions to the current way elections are administered. Officials estimate that the changes would have a cumulative effect, and would have some costs. Officials stated that the cost would be difficult to estimate. Officials stated that the November 2000 election cost the Kansas City Board of Election Commission \$387,484.58. If the increase in activity would increase election costs by 15% this proposal would increase costs of about \$58,000. Officials stated if they were to convert to electronic voting the costs would range from 2 to 3.5 million dollars.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2003 (10 Mo.)	FY 2004	FY 2005
GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
<u>Cost</u> to Secretary of State			
Personal Service (1 FTE)	(\$33,354)	(\$41,025)	(\$42,050)
Fringe Benefits	(\$12,011)	(\$14,773)	(\$15,142)
Equipment	(\$7,600)	(\$370)	(\$370)
Expense:			
Grant-Election Equipment * (Section 115.074)	\$0 to(\$5,000,000)	\$0 to(\$5,000,000)	\$0 to (\$5,000,000)
Grant-Election Judges Pay * (Section 115.102)	\$0 to (\$100,000)	\$0 to (\$25,000)	\$0 to (\$100,000)
Advanced Voting Program* (Section 115.126)	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$0 to Unknown)</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Total Costs to Secretary of State	<u>\$0 or (\$52,965 to \$5,152,965)</u>	<u>\$0 or (\$56,168 to \$5,081,168 to Unknown)</u>	<u>\$0 or (\$57,562 to \$5,157,562)</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2003 (10 Mo.)	FY 2004	FY 2005
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ESTIMATED NET EFFECT TO GENERAL REVENUE FUND	<u>\$0 or (\$52,965 to \$5,152,965)</u>	<u>\$0 or (\$56,168 to \$5,081,168 to Unknown)</u>	<u>\$0 or (\$57,562 to \$5,157,562)</u>
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*** SUBJECT to APPROPRIATION**

HIGHWAY FUND

<u>Cost</u> to Department of Revenue for postage and supplies (Section 115.151)	<u>(\$7,650)</u>	<u>(\$9,181)</u>	<u>(\$9,181)</u>
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ESTIMATED NET EFFECT TO HIGHWAY FUND	<u>(\$7,650)</u>	<u>(\$9,181)</u>	<u>(\$9,181)</u>
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SPECIAL ELECTIONS FUND

<u>Savings</u> to Office of Administration Committeewoman/man elections	<u>\$205,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$205,000</u>
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ESTIMATED NET EFFECT TO SPECIAL ELECTIONS FUND	<u>\$205,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$205,000</u>
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<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2003 (10 Mo.)	FY 2004	FY 2005
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**LOCAL ELECTION AUTHORITIES
COUNTIES**

<u>Income</u> to Counties for reimbursement from SOS for: Election Equipment (Section 115.074)*	\$0 or \$5,000,000	\$0 or \$5,000,000	\$0 or \$5,000,000
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<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2003 (10 Mo.)	FY 2004	FY 2005
Election Judges Pay (Section 115.102)*	\$0 or \$100,000	\$0 or \$25,000	\$0 or \$100,000
Advanced Voting (Section 115.126)	\$0	\$0 or Unknown	\$0
<u>Cost</u> to Counties for providing election items:			
Election Equipment *	\$0 or (\$5,000,000)	\$0 or (\$5,000,000)	\$0 or (\$5,000,000)
Election Judges Pay Increase *	\$0 or (\$100,000)	\$0 or (\$25,000)	\$0 or (\$100,000)
Advanced Voting Program *	\$0	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS	\$0	\$0	\$0

*** SUBJECT TO STATE
 APPROPRIATION**

*** If the General Assembly does not appropriate funds to defray the costs to local government then the programs listed above would not be initiated, see Section 115.126.3.**

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

DESCRIPTION

This bill makes numerous changes to the election laws. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Allows computerized voting systems to be certified for use in Missouri;
- (2) Allows independent and third party members to serve as election judges;

DESCRIPTION continued

- (3) Prohibits employers with 50 or more employees from firing or disciplining employees appointed as election judges. These employees may be absent from work for the amount of time that the election authority requires their service as election judges. Employees discharged in violation of this section may bring a civil action against the employer for lost wages, reinstatement, and attorney fees;
- (4) Allows caretakers of the disabled and elderly to vote by absentee ballot;
- (5) Provides state grants for election judge compensation, subject to appropriation;
- (6) Removes uncontested committee races from ballots;
- (7) Closes certain voter registration records by court order if the voter's safety is at issue;
- (8) Provides state grants to upgrade local election equipment, subject to appropriation;
- (9) Allows international election observers;
- (10) Allows persons in federal service to return absentee ballots by electronic means;
- (11) Prohibits use of the butterfly ballot unless approved by the Secretary of State;
- (12) Requires that voting instructions be clearly posted at all polls;
- (13) Gives local election authorities the option to mail out sample ballots to voters and print sample ballots only one time in newspapers. Current law requires two newspaper printings;
- (14) Extends the time period allowed for testing voting equipment from five to 14 days;
- (15) Upon appropriation, requires all election authorities to establish an advance voting period for presidential elections, which will begin 14 days before an election and end on the Wednesday immediately before an election. The election authority must establish and post the hours, dates, and locations for advance voting;
- (16) Requires voter registration agencies under the National Voter Registration Act to submit registration applications within five days of completion of the registration form;

DESCRIPTION continued

- (17) Requires election authorities to accept absentee ballot applications by facsimile transmission;
- (18) Removes the June election date for school districts; and
- (19) Authorizes the Secretary of State to investigate election violations.

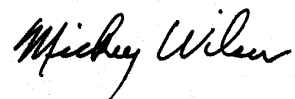
This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Office of the Secretary of State
Office of Attorney General
Office of Administration
Department of Revenue
Kansas City Board of Election Commission

NOT RESPONDING

St. Louis County Board of Election Commission
St. Louis City Board of Election Commission
Clay County Board of Election Commission
County Clerks of: Callaway, Cole, Greene, Cass, Marion, and Platte Counties



Mickey Wilson, CPA
Acting Director
January 18, 2002

